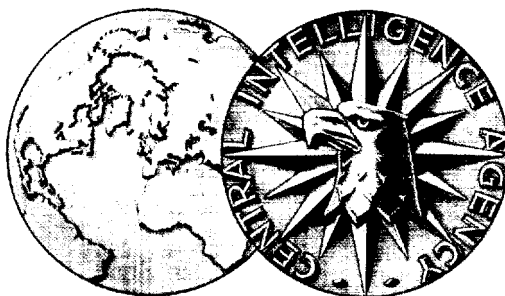


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Office *Classification Control*
Date *JAN 1954*

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MAP RESEARCH BULLETIN



No. 12

December 1949

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MAP RESEARCH BULLETIN

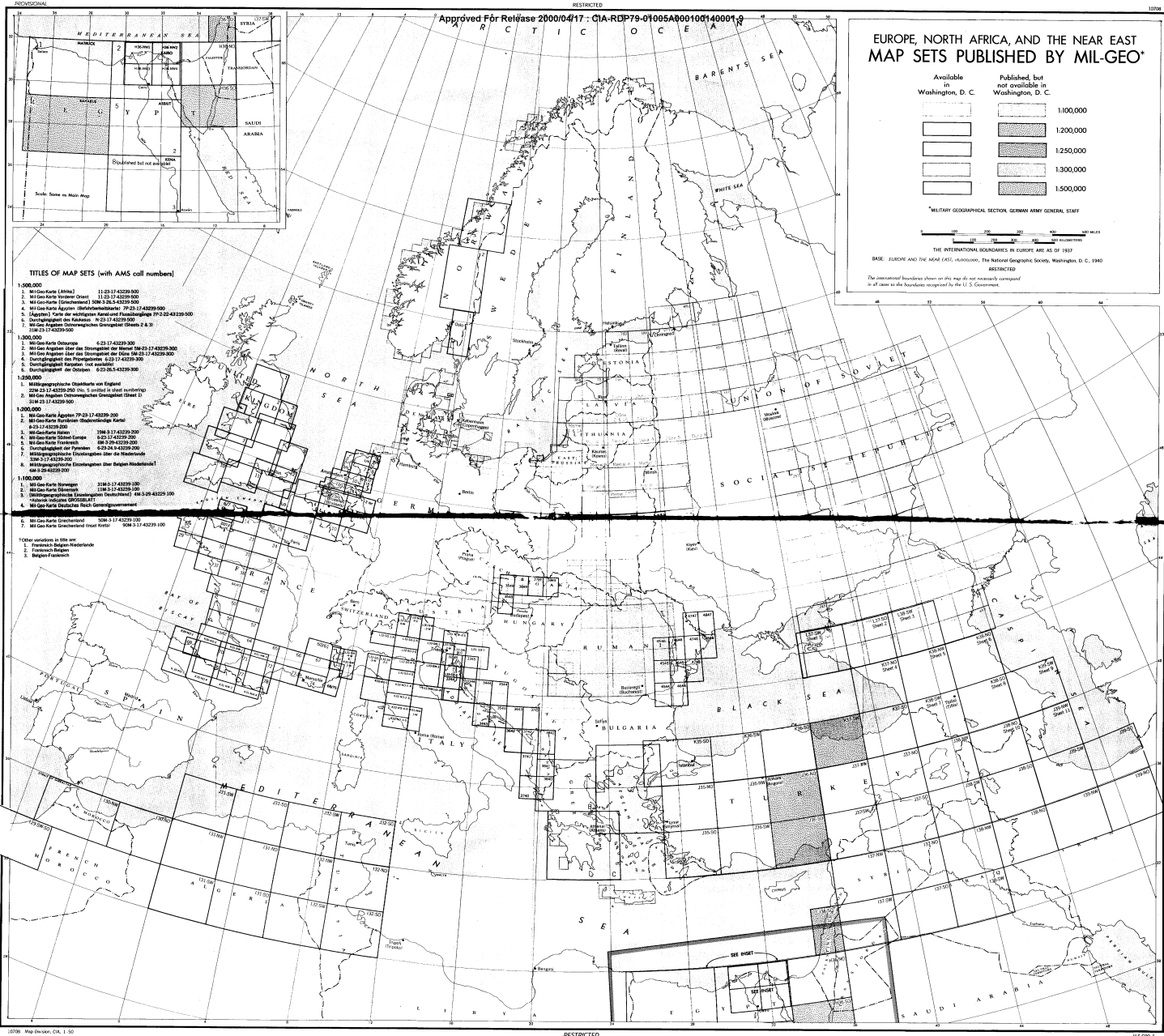
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DECEMBER 1949

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EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, AND THE NEAR EAST MAP SETS PUBLISHED BY MIL-GEO*

Available in Washington, D. C.	Published, but not available in Washington, D. C.
	1:100,000
	1:200,000
	1:250,000
	1:300,000
	1:500,000

*MILITARY GEOGRAPHICAL SECTION, GERMAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF

THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE ARE AS OF 1937

BASE: EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST, 1:500,000, The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., 1940
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The uncolored boundaries shown on this map do not necessarily correspond
to all state-to-state boundaries recognized by the U. S. Government.

TITLES OF MAP SETS (with AMS call numbers)

- 1:100,000
 1. Mil-Geo Karte (Africa) 1:100,000 17-43229-300
 2. Mil-Geo Karte (Arabien) 1:100,000 17-43229-300
 3. Mil-Geo Karte (Südwestafrika) 1:100,000 17-43229-300
 4. Mil-Geo Karte (Südwestafrika) 1:100,000 17-43229-300
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- 1:200,000
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1. Other boundaries in title are:
1. International boundaries
2. National boundaries
3. Regional boundaries

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Note: This Bulletin has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

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**I. MIL-GEO: THE GEOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE
GERMAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF¹**

The numerous geographical handbooks and special-subject maps published by Mil-Geo during World War II are still of great value to United States intelligence agencies. For some areas, Mil-Geo maps are the best maps or the only maps available, and Mil-Geo publications provide convenient summaries of geographical information for all countries of Europe, the Soviet Union, North Africa, and the Near East. Mil-Geo methods of operation are also significant to United States intelligence agencies because they culminated in the development of new types of geographic publications. Mil-Geo publications were not, in all cases, based on field observations and the reliability of the information is not uniform. Therefore, caution should be exercised in using these materials.

Mission of Mil-Geo

The task of Mil-Geo was to provide the German Army and the other armed forces with geographic information for operational and strategic use. When Germany began to rearm in 1935, a section for military geography was established in the ninth division of the Army General Staff

1. The term Mil-Geo is a contraction of Militärgeographie (military geography). A detailed report on Mil-Geo, to be issued by CIA, will include an inventory of Mil-Geo publications and of English translations of the more important works. Mil-Geo publications are held by a number of agencies in Washington. The best sources for loan copies of the geographical handbooks are: Army Map Service, CIA Map Division, and German Military Documents Section (Office of the Adjutant General, Department of the Army). For loan copies of Mil-Geo set maps the best source is Army Map Service Library.

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**(Abteilung für Kriegskarten und Vermessungswesen--
Division for War Maps and Surveying).**

Until the summer of 1939, work was limited to "Greater Germany." Subsequently, geographic handbooks were issued for Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France in rapid succession. In 1940, 1941, and 1942, the major efforts of Mil-Geo were devoted to the preparation of general geographic handbooks and maps on the Soviet Union, Europe, North Africa, and the Near East. From 1942 on, the emphasis shifted from textual materials to special sets of maps showing strategic installations and trafficability. Early in 1940 outposts were established in occupied countries and in combat areas. The tasks of the outposts were: (1) to check in the area the Mil-Geo works prepared in Germany; (2) to develop information files for the area of responsibility; (3) to provide geographic and cartographic services to the military commander and his staff; and (4) to prepare additional maps and handbooks.

Mil-Geo in Relation to other Geographic Agencies

Each of the German military services had a geographic unit. Mil-Geo served the Army; Mar-Geo¹ (Marinegeographie--Naval Geography) the Navy; and Luft-Geo (Luftgeographie--Air Geography) the Air Force. The Department of Defense (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht) had a special geographic unit called the Forschungsstaffel.² Although these four geographic organizations collaborated closely at times, there was also considerable rivalry between them.

Each agency had a special mission to perform but inevitably some of their functions overlapped. Whereas

1. See Department of State, OIR No. 3704.

2. See Department of State, OIR No. 3705.

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Mil-Geo produced geographic handbooks and maps primarily of land areas, Mar-Geo produced maps and studies of coastal areas. The Forschungsstaffel issued special trafficability maps for small areas of strategic importance and rarely published textual materials. Luft-Geo maps and handbooks were designed exclusively for strategic air operations.

Mil-Geo was the only one of the four agencies that was in operation before the war. It initiated several new types of work that were later developed more intensively by the other geographic units. For example, Mil-Geo prepared coastal maps of a new type for the British Isles and other areas. Soon after Mar-Geo was established in 1942, Mil-Geo called upon Mar-Geo to provide coastal maps and evaluations for inclusion in its publications. The two organizations collaborated particularly closely in Norway.

Soon after the war began, Mil-Geo produced a new type of trafficability map called an Operationskarte. The techniques used were developed further by the Forschungsstaffel after 1942. In some areas, notably Greece and the Pripet Marsh of Poland, Mil-Geo and the Forschungsstaffel worked in collaboration. Although liaison was established between Mil-Geo and Luft-Geo, there is no evidence of collaboration in the production of maps or reports.

Misconceptions Concerning Mil-Geo

Mil-Geo is a term with many erroneous connotations. Correctly used, the term Mil-Geo refers both to the producing agency and to the publications of that agency. One of the publications most frequently erroneously attributed to Mil-Geo is actually a Planheft, a volume summarizing mapping information on a country or region, that was

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published by the cartographic section of the Abteilung für Kriegskarten und Vermessungswesen. Other publications that are often confused with Mil-Geo's may be correctly identified by the symbol of the producing organization, as follows:

Luft-Geo, a publication of the Luft-Geo organization

OKL, a publication of the Luftwaffe other than a Luft-Geo

Mar-Geo, a publication of the Mar-Geo organization

OKM, a publication of the Navy High Command other than a Mar-Geo

OKH, a publication of the Army High Command other than a Mil-Geo

OKW, a publication of the Department of Defense other than a publication of the Forschungsstaffel

Failure to distinguish between the publications of the various German geographic agencies is probably the chief reason why users encounter difficulty and delay in procuring Mil-Geo publications from libraries where they are deposited. In a few cases, the practice of designating other geographic intelligence studies as "Mil-Geo's" has also resulted in incorrect cataloging and filing.

Appraisal of Types of Publications

During the war Mil-Geo published more than 102 geographical handbooks on more than 39 countries; more than 300 set-map sheets; more than 450 city plans; and more than 500 city thoroughfare plans. This remarkably large output was the work of a staff that numbered less than 75 professional persons at its peak.

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A typical Mil-Geo geographical handbook is a paper folder approximately six by nine inches in size which contains an assortment of booklets and folded maps. A typical folder contains a Textheft (text volume) with a section in which the entire country is discussed by topics; a section describing the geographic regions of the country; and inventories of roads, railroads, waterways, water resources, health facilities, industrial plants, principal towns, airfields, population, administrative districts, etc. The Textheft usually contains from five to twenty black and white maps on a variety of subjects.

In most cases, the folder also contains a Bildheft or booklet of photographs, a booklet of town plans on which through routes are shown; from two to five separate, large-sheet, colored maps of the country (on general topography, transportation, airfields, minerals, trafficability, etc.); and from two to ten city plans.

In the last three years of its existence, Mil-Geo published about two dozen sets of maps on which special transportation data or military objectives had been overprinted in a characteristic purple color. Information about these maps sets is presented on the map accompanying this article (CIA 10708).

A number of city plans were issued separately by Mil-Geo and not included in any of the geographical handbooks. These plans, on many of which the location of strategic objectives had been overprinted, were mostly for German and Russian cities.

The publications of Mil-Geo are not concerned exclusively with military geography; Mil-Geo presented information on economic, social, political, and regional geography as well. Nevertheless, geographic factors of greatest military significance were emphasized. Transportation and communication facilities were usually covered in

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detail in all areas. In dry areas, water features and resources were emphasized. In mountainous and hilly terrain, passes and trafficability were highlighted. In a few areas, special emphasis was given to industrial installations. In Norway, coastal features were stressed.

Mil-Geo generally refrained from making a military analysis of the data presented, but it did call the user's attention to items of military significance by printing a bold black line in the margin opposite certain passages in the Textheft. For some areas, the text also contains a concise military section entitled Militärische Beurteilung or Gesamtbeurteilung (military judgment or over-all evaluation).

The quality of the Mil-Geo works varied with the competence and area knowledge of the professional geographers employed. It also varied with the time available for research and compilation and with the amount and quality of source material available. Quality inevitably suffers when studies are produced under pressure.

By late 1942, when the Germans began to retreat, Mil-Geo had published basic handbooks on all areas of immediate military interest. Subsequent requirements were for revision of some of the handbooks and for more detailed information on certain areas. Textual publications from this time on were chiefly coastal studies.

Appraisal of Techniques and Methods

Mil-Geo was essentially a compiling unit. Like Allied geographical units, Mil-Geo was critically short of the source materials needed to produce adequate studies and maps on foreign areas. As war approached, an intensive collection campaign was inaugurated. Libraries and

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commercial establishments were combed for books, maps, and photographs. Scholars, businessmen, and travelers were interviewed. Procurement in foreign areas by intelligence units was intensified, and the Luftwaffe was requested to supply air photo coverage. Thus, a great variety of source materials flowed into Mil-Geo headquarters in Berlin.

The basic file of Mil-Geo was called an Einheitsobjektkartei (EOK). On each card was recorded information about a single target or strategic objective. All information on a given area was systematically recorded in a uniform manner in the EOK file. The origin of the EOK file system dates back to 1923 or 1924. When a Mil-Geo unit was set up, an EOK file was established for that area. Each item in the file was carefully located and keyed to maps by geographic coordinates. Thus, when texts and maps were being compiled, locational and descriptive data were available in a usable and flexible form.

As the war progressed, more and more maps and studies were produced by the outposts. Usually these were more reliable because of the opportunity to gather and check data in the field. The work of the French, Norwegian and Greek outposts was especially good. Toward the end of the war, use of air photographs increased. This technique resulted in more comprehensive and accurate studies.

The efficient organization of Mil-Geo, in combination with the use of standard formats for handbooks and maps, enabled Mil-Geo to produce regional studies in a very short time. The production of maps was further speeded up by the use of existing maps as bases whenever possible. Mil-Geo published about two dozen map sets ranging in scale from 1:100,000 to 1:500,000. The base was generally

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an official army topographic map, on which strategic objectives or trafficability data were overprinted in purple. A Mil-Geo title and legend were added. In most cases, concise descriptions of physical and economic aspects of an area were printed in the broad margin and on the back of each map sheet. The most elaborate use of this technique was made on the five-sheet set for Crete at 1:100,000, which is considered to be an excellent geographic survey.

Mil-Geo developed an elaborate set of symbols to portray the information highlighted on its maps¹. One of the reasons why Mil-Geo set maps gradually lost favor was that the increasing amount of detail shown cluttered up the map and made it difficult to read.

The basic working techniques used by Mil-Geo were similar to those employed by allied geographers. The main contributions made by Mil-Geo are not the basic techniques used, but rather the resulting format and type of studies and maps. United States and British agencies provided their armed forces with somewhat comparable studies and maps, but these were designed for office use at staff levels. Mil-Geo materials were mostly in pocket-type editions and were distributed down to battalion level.

The presentation of a concise geographic summary of an area in map form was especially well developed by Mil-Geo. For example, on the 1:200,000 set for France,

1. See Kartenzeichen für militärgeographische Karten, Generalstab des Heeres, Abteilung für Kreigskarten- und Vermessungswesen (IV Mil-Geo), Entwurf 1944. Translated by Army Map Service as Conventional Signs for Military Geographical Maps. Call number TA G 3 G 37 Eng. Tr.

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Mil-Geo printed a topographic map in the center of a large sheet and used the four margins for over-all descriptions and small-scale black and white maps on special subjects. In many cases the back of the sheet was used for city plans and for maps giving details for areas of special importance. As a result, a general geographic survey of the area covered was closely integrated with the map and presented on a single sheet.

Another contribution of Mil-Geo is the coastal handbooks that were issued for most of the European coasts. Although Mil-Geo initiated coastal studies, Mar-Geo developed the methodology to a higher degree. The contribution made by both Mil-Geo and Mar-Geo lies in the emphasis given to the coastal area as a unit. Earlier studies had emphasized either the land or water aspects of a coast instead of treating the zone of contact between land and water as a unit.

Mil-Geo also performed a useful service by assembling photographs of various areas and by preparing and giving wide distribution to separate booklets of selected photographs that supplemented textual and map materials. Gazetteers and booklets of information on cities and towns were also published and circulated widely.

The German concept of military geography has traditionally included a detailed analysis of the terrain for warfare. Early in World War II Mil-Geo prepared special terrain maps, called Operationskarten, for planning purposes (for example: Südost-Europa, Militärgeographische Operationskarte, 1:1,000,000, 2 sheets, 15 March 1940). For operational purposes, sets of maps were made using standard bases at scales ranging from 1:100,000 to 1:500,000. On these bases special transportation and trafficability data were

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superimposed. The set on European Russia at 1:300,000 is a good example.

Special attention was given to the passability of mountainous areas. Sets were published for the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Carpathians, and the Caucasus.

The Forschungsstaffel made more highly specialized terrain maps than Mil-Geo and, in the last year and a half of the war, their maps won higher favor from the generals.

The Intelligence Value of Mil-Geo Publications

Mil-Geo works are compact summaries of geographical information. The textual materials are useful primarily for orientation purposes, whereas the set maps are sources for specific locational detail on transportation, industry, etc.

Mil-Geo maps are recommended for many purposes today. In some cases they provide the best or only information on a given subject or area; in other cases they are recommended as supplementary sources. The Mil-Geo study of the Caucasus, in a special set of 11 maps and a text on passes and routes, presents the best available information on the area. Mil-Geo publications also provide the best available specific information in graphic form on such subjects as: drainage in Kazakhstan and Turkestan, bridges in Denmark, city plans in Turkey, land use in Libya, coasts in Denmark, industry in Iran, and bridges in Greece.

The Mil-Geo picture booklets (Bildheften) are convenient for a quick visual survey of an area, which would normally be impossible without consulting a number of sources or ordering a large number of photographs individually. Although the gazetteers are rapidly becoming out-dated, a few are still of value.

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For many areas Mil-Geo has assembled a good collection of city plans. In most cases, the plans are copies of foreign originals, but Mil-Geo plans are often available when the original plans are not. The value of some of the Mil-Geo plans is enhanced by the addition of overprints locating strategic installations.

The special-subject maps that appear in the geographic handbooks are useful for general reference. These include maps on population density, vegetation, land use, climate, soils, etc. Occasionally there are special maps, such as areas visible from Gibraltar or wells in the Dakar region.

Mil-Geo publications on Western European countries are as a rule less useful than the studies on other countries because of the availability of numerous other studies. The series of regional handbooks on the USSR, however, is of special value, as are also studies of North African and the Near East.

A basic weakness of most Mil-Geo works is that they were not based on direct field observations and, consequently, numerous errors of fact have crept in. Because the reliability of information is not uniform, careful checking is necessary in using Mil-Geo publications.

In summary, Mil-Geo publications are basic geographic reference works. The type of information presented is well chosen and some of the methods of presentation are unique. Some of the publications are valuable chiefly as supplementary sources; others are still the best sources available. All Mil-Geo materials, however, should be used with care and the information should be verified wherever possible.

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II. BOUNDARIES OF MACEDONIA

Macedonia recently has been prominently mentioned in news of the Balkans. Actually, Macedonia is not and never has been a political entity. It is a concept of area based on a long common history prior to the Balkan Wars of 1912-13.

In terms of modern political units Macedonia includes southern Yugoslavia, northern Greece, and southwestern Bulgaria. The general extent of Macedonia in each of the three countries is recognized by the countries themselves as well as by competent scholars. This established concept of Macedonia does not imply ethnic homogeneity or homogeneity of political allegiance within the region.

Current usage of the name "Macedonia" took form during the last decades of the nineteenth century, well before the division of the area among the three states. At that time, the Ottoman Empire still retained a fragment of its once extensive holdings in Europe. Macedonia was the heart of this fragment. The administration and possible disposition of Macedonia and the rest of Turkey-in-Europe constituted the "Eastern question" that perplexed European statesmen.

The core of Macedonia is generally recognized and accepted. There is no agreement concerning the outer limits of Macedonia. The area cannot be bounded on the basis of unique ethnic character, terrain, economic pattern, or any other single feature. The boundary shown on the map accompanying this article (CIA 11416) is a composite of convenient political boundaries and certain natural features accepted by authorities as appropriate boundaries. (See list of references at end of article.)

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On the northwest, Macedonia is limited by the Šar Planina and Skopska Crna Gora (Sources 1, 3, 4, and 6, and Sources 5 by implication). From the Skopska Crna Gora to the Bulgarian frontier there is no conspicuous natural division between Macedonia and the rest of Yugoslavia. The area is rough hill country throughout, with a moderately dense and uniform distribution of separate farmsteads. For want of a better line, the divide between tributaries of the Vardar and the Južna Morava has been used as the border in this area (Source 6). With minor variation, this northern border corresponds to the the boundary of the republika of Makedonija in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav-Bulgarian boundary is also the boundary of Macedonia along the heights of the Osogovska Planina (Sources 3, 4, and 6, and Source 1 by implication). Within Bulgarian territory, there is no generally recognized boundary for Macedonia. No one of several possible east-west borders is appreciably better than another. The mountains trend north-south, and, except in isolated basins along the Struma and Mesta rivers, population is sparse. Gorna Dzhumaya is usually considered a Macedonian town. The valley of the Mesta is excluded from Macedonia by some sources (2, 6), but included by others (1, 4). Inasmuch as the Razlog-Bansko area was the headquarters of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization between the World Wars, it seems reasonable to include it in Macedonia. The Mesta River (Nestos in Greece), which flows in a gorge throughout most of its course, has been adopted as a readily traceable physical feature to serve as the eastern boundary.

The Aegean Sea forms the southeastern border of Macedonia. The Khalkidhiki is thus included as a part of Macedonia, and all the sources listed show it as such. Occasionally a discussion of Macedonia by a Slav writer omits the peninsula on the ground that it has always been

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wholly Greek. The argument seems forced in view of the connection of the peninsula with the body of Macedonia and its detachment from the rest of Greece. Its omission would increase the proportion of Slavs in Macedonia. In the southwest, the border of the Greek dhiamérisma (major administrative division) of Makedhonia has been used on the map as the Macedonian border. This corresponds almost exactly with the water divide between the Aliákmon and Piniós rivers and, farther west, with the crest of the Píndhos Mountains, which are accepted as limits by a number of authorities (Sources 1, 3, 6).

The Albanian state boundary is the western margin of Macedonia. Schultze-Jena (Source 6) includes the region around Korce within Macedonia, but this is not a usual practice. It is possible that present guerrilla leaders claim a part of this region immediately west of the lakes, chiefly on political grounds. However, an Albanian population majority, slight association with Macedonian freedom movements prior to the Balkan Wars, and difficult communication with the rest of Macedonia support the exclusion of Albanian territory. To the north, most authorities consider the Crni Drim and Albanian mountains, which the Albanian frontier follows, as the western border of Macedonia.

It is apparent from the above discussion that the assignment of an exact border to Macedonia is necessarily arbitrary. Macedonia is above all a concept of a core area; the variation of a few miles at the periphery is unimportant. No border can be drawn for Macedonia that will indicate an abrupt change in way of life or population from one side of the border to the other.

For statistical treatment of the region, it is convenient to use figures for the Greek dhiamérisma of Makedhonia, the Yugoslav Na odna Republika Makedonija, and the following

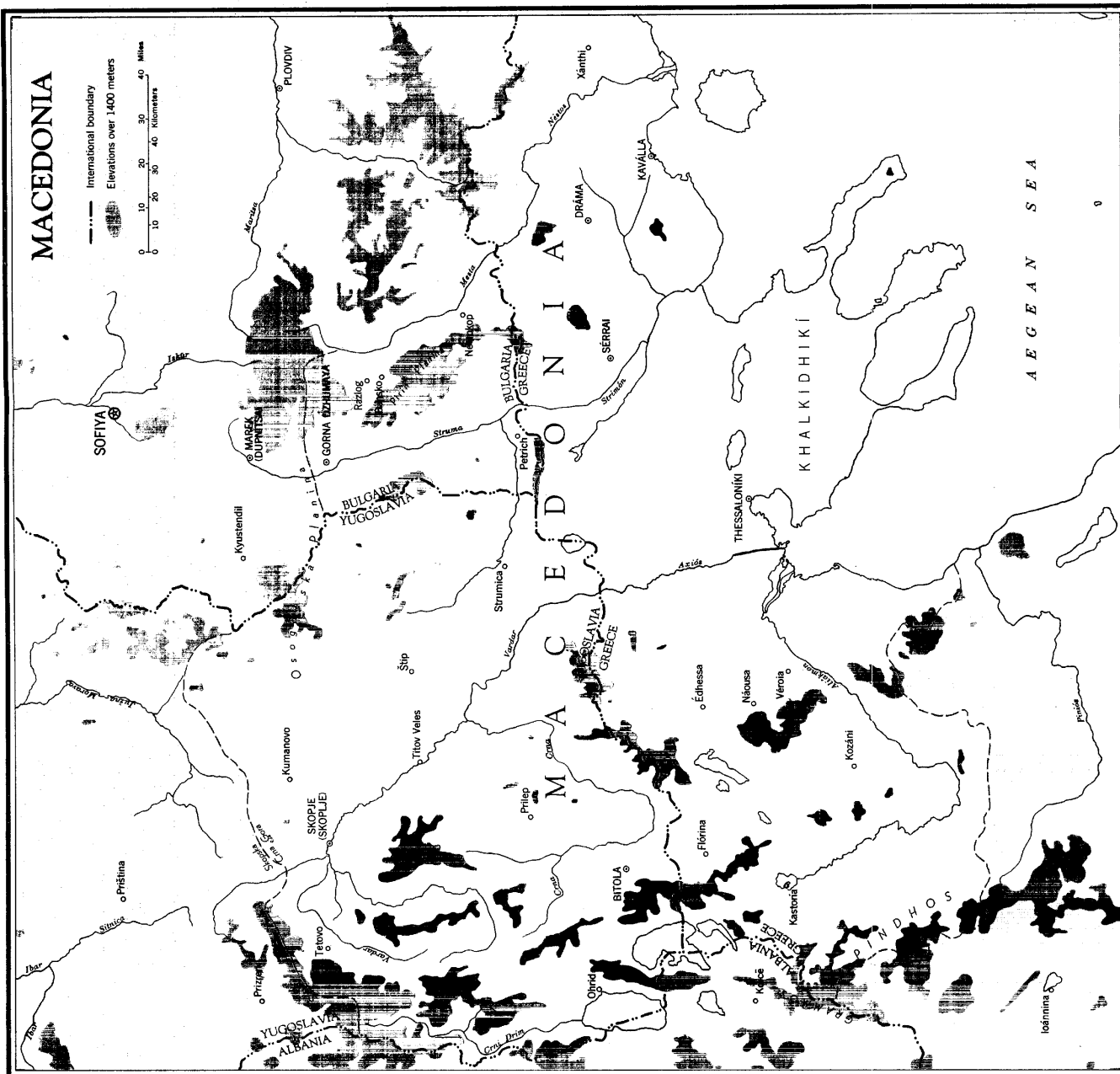
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okoli of Bulgaria: Gorna Dzhumaya; Nevrokop; Petrich; Razlog; and Sveti Vrach. These are not precisely co-extensive with Macedonia as outlined here, but the areas excluded are mountainous and inhabited only by a scattered shepherd population.

Since World War II three new terms have been used in connection with Macedonia, chiefly by Slav writers. They are Vardar Macedonia, Pirin Macedonia, and Aegean Macedonia. In practice, the three areas are coincident with the Yugoslav, Bulgarian, and Greek sections of Macedonia.

SOURCES

1. Ancel, Jacques; "La Macédoine," Paris, 1930.
2. Cvijić, Jovan; "Remarques sur la Ethnographie de la Macédoine," Paris, 1919.
3. Krainikowsky, Assen I.; "La Question de Macédoine et la Diplomatie Européene," Paris, 1938.
4. Melnik, Anton; "Jugoslavija," Ljubljana, 1949.
5. Newbiggin, Marian I.; "Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems in their Relations to the Great European War," New York, 1915.
6. Schulze-Jena, Leonhard; "Makedonien, Landschafts und Kulturbilder," Jena, 1927.



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III. BRIEF NOTICES

A. A NEW MAP OF FRANCE

CIA has published a map of France at 1:2,000,000, entitled France, Administrative Divisions, CIA No. 10955. It shows the first-, second-, and third-order internal divisions and the administrative seats of the first- and second-order divisions. The areas acquired by France from Italy in 1947 are included in the administrative break-down. The location of the internal boundaries of postwar France and the subdued colors make this map especially useful for plotting purposes. Copies are available by calling Code 143, extension 2596.

B. MAP OF PORTUGAL AT 1:400,000

The Instituto Geográfico e Cadastral published in 1948 the final sheet (No. 1) needed to complete the Carta Corográfica de Portugal na Escala 1:400,000 (CIA Call No. 35509). This sheet covers the area north of the Rio Tejo which is not only the most rugged but also the most densely populated and highly developed part of Portugal.

The three sheets together represent the most up-to-date, medium-scale, official, topographic set available on the area. Sheet 1 is dated 1948; Sheet 2, 1945; and Sheet 3, 1941. On all sheets, coordinates are given at 1-degree intervals, with 5-minute marginal divisions; longitude is reckoned from the Observatório do Castelo in Lisbon, but longitude from Greenwich is also indicated.

Terrain is shown by contours, hypsometric tints, and symbols for sandy, swampy, muddy, and rocky areas. First-order triangulation stations are indicated. Bathymetric lines are shown, and lighthouses are located.

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Transportation routes are shown by three categories of roads and three categories of railroads. Bridges are indicated by symbols.

International boundaries only are located; a separate symbol is used for boundaries in dispute. The addition of internal boundaries would greatly increase the usefulness of the map. The capital of each province and distrito and the seat of each concelho and freguesia are indicated by symbols.

The wealth of information presented on this set makes it a valuable source for reference purposes.

C. PLACE NAME CHANGES IN BULGARIA

The Bulgarian press has recently announced several place name changes. The towns affected are:

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Former Name</u>	<u>Location</u> <u>(coordinates)</u>
Brichibov	Kula	42°17'N 23°19'E
Dimitrovgrad	Rakovski	42°04' 23°13'
Dimitrovo	Pernik	42°35' 23°02'
Marek	Dupnitsa	42°15' 23°06'
Mikhaylovgrad	Ferdinand	42°24' 23°13'
Tolbukhin	Dobrich	43°35' 27°49'
Velingrad	Ludzhane	42°02' 24°00'

The above names have not been reviewed by the Board on Geographic Names.

Evidence indicates that the town of Dimitrovgrad, heralded as a new socialist city, is actually at the site of the former village of Rakovski. The latter had a population of about 3,000 before the war, and was a junction on the main line of the Sofia-Svilengrad railroad.

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D. NEW PROVINCE IN LOWER EGYPT

A new mudiriya (province) in Lower Egypt, Fuadiya, was created 28 August 1949, by Article 1 of Law 146. The Law states that "A new province is hereby created in Lower Egypt to be named Fuadiya Province. Its capital will be Kafr el Sheikh, and it will have supervision over the markazes of Kafr el Sheikh, Disuq, Fuwa, Qallin, and Biyala and the Ma'mourieh of Burullus after its detachment from Gharbiya Province."

A tracing at 1:500,000 of the new mudiriya has been received by the CIA Map Library (CIA Call No. 61171). Boundaries are shown for the markazes (districts) of Kafr el Sheikh, Disuq, Fuwa, Qallin, and Biyala. Boundaries are not shown for the Ma'mourieh (a security division comprising one or more markazes) of Burullus. The tracing was prepared by the Survey of Egypt in answer to a request submitted through the Embassy at Cairo.

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